

## Petitioner submission of 22 January 2024

### PE2072/B: Offer covid 19 vaccine boosters to teachers and school staff

I had tried to word this petition so that it would not be unnecessarily complicated by party political or constitutional issues, however, the response from the Scottish Government doesn't leave much choice. And my comments here contain no new information as such, as *the inadequacy of the JCVI advice* (which the government response ignores) *is clearly implicit in the reason for the petition*: it is precisely because the JCVI advice has proved *inadequate to prevent transmission* in schools, as seen in recent surges (and the ensuing Long Covid cases) that we should be offering the latest vaccines to school staff (and college staff: I should have included them in the original wording as the transmission vectors are so similar). So the Scottish Government response here is perplexing and contradictory, and basically says "We're just doing what we're told, even though it's not working and has contributed to the issue being petitioned about."

As someone also commented on Twitter, which sums up my view clearly and strongly (I thought about rephrasing this in more "parliamentary" language, but this is pithy and to the point, so better to have the original wording...):

"@scotgov's response is what it always is on vaccination, namely 'we do whatever JCVI says'. But that's not good enough from a devolved pro-independence government with hard-won devolved powers on health. THEY, not JCVI, are answerable for @scotgov policy. On what evidence, via what process, @scotgov, did you decide JCVI's conclusions are right for the people of Scotland? How do you account for other equally eminent people/ bodies in other countries concluding differently to JCVI? We deserve more than cowardly buck passing..."